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LB 814

Senator Schrock. And if that's what you're asking, why don't a couple of you, when you speak, let us know that. And if that's the sense of the body, that's what we'll do.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, if that is the will of the body, I would accept a bracket to bring the bill up later in the session. But I want to respond to some of the things that have been said. Natural Resource issues don't have a face. It's not like Health and Human Services. And sometimes they get swept under the rug. And I don't know if that's my fault, the committee's fault, or whose fault it is, but obviously nobody from Lincoln and Omaha took this bill up as their priority bill. And, like I said, I don't have any communities affected in it. I am the messenger. I think it needs to be done. I would respond to you, Senator Cunningham, you listed off a group of entities that don't like the bill, that are opposed to the bill. How would they feel if nobody collected their garbage? How would they feel if somebody shut off their water if they didn't pay their water bill? Well, if they don't want to pay for storm water problems, maybe they should store their water on their property after they pour their concrete. We have a real problem here, Senator Cunningham, and we need to address it. And we have...the committee, myself, committee counsel, we have made a good faith effort to get all the parties involved. We're dealing with an EPA federal mandate here. We're trying to do something that mirrors what the states around us are doing to address this problem. And we are going to subject ourself to fines if we don't. And if we don't do this, the burden could fall on property taxpayers. That's not fair. Just because you own property doesn't mean you contribute to the storm water problems in your...in your locality. Your storm water problems are directly related to the amount of impervious property you have on your property. Obviously, if you have farmland it's going to soak up the rain. We have a situation in Omaha where the sewer and the storm water are commingled when rain takes place. That's a big problem. This may or may not be able to address that issue in the future. But I'm willing to put this off for a week. But please, don't sweep it under the rug. That's not the solution, it shouldn't be the